I Am a Hindu

All Religions Are Not Same

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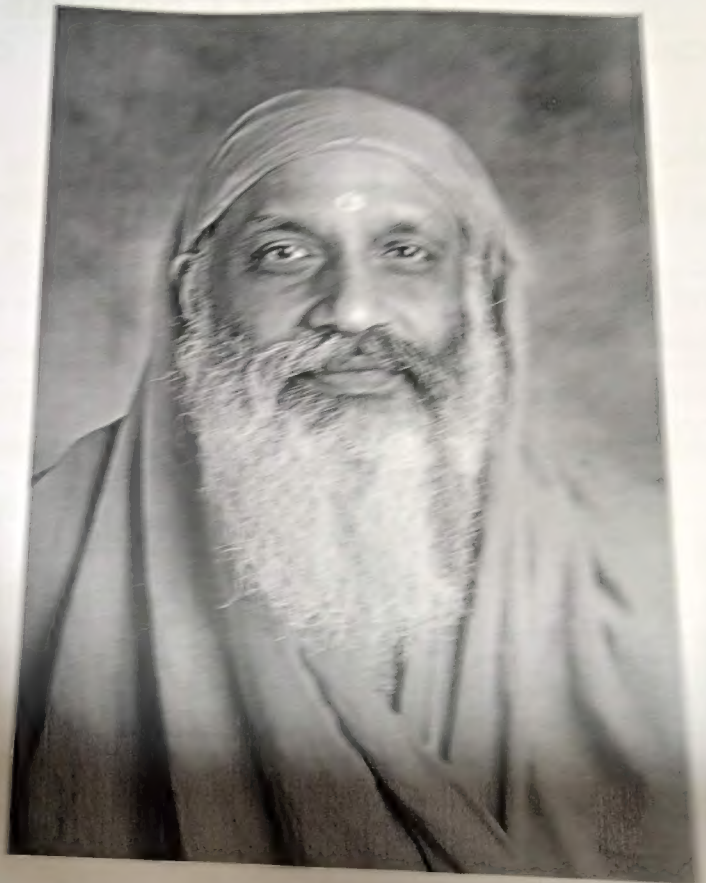
Hindu Dharma is a living culture.
We have to preserve this culture.
We need to be aware, alive to the realities and do what we need to do.

It is not enough if one follows Dharma. One has to protect Dharma and become a Dharma Rakshaka.



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I Am A Hindu

I am very happy that I am a Hindu. I can talk about my religion without guilt. In fact, I can talk about it for ages. ***Hindu religion is simply a view and way of life***[1]**.** Hindu Dharma is called Sanatana Dharma. This Dharma flows perennially and keeps re-emerging with each cycle of creation.

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[1] ***Hindu Religion is simply a view and way of life:*** **It means Hinduism a *Vedic* view and a way of life in keeping with that view, wh exemplified Dharma.**

When did Hindu Religion Start?

Tell me, when did Hindu religion start? We have no history. Someone said because it doesn't have history, it is not a religion. I am very happy, I don't have history. Like physics, which is a body of knowledge which has been growing, and was not started by a given person on a given day.

We have a "Dharma", which has been with us for ages and which didn't have a historical start.

Lord Rama and Krishna

Lord Rama and Krishna did not invent Sanatana Dharma (Hinduism) but were born into this Sanatana Dharma.

The very birth of Lord Rama through Putra Kameshti Yajna is an evidence for the timeless existence of Sanantana Dharma followed by Hindus. Rama and Krishna dominate everything. They are all pervading. You remove Rama and Krishna, and then there is no Hindu culture. Sanatana Dharma being the Dharma of the Universe is a cosmic force.

Vedic Vision of Ishvara

Vedic Vision of Ishvara and Vedic way of life in keeping with that vision shape and guide the Hindus in their whole life. This is Hindu Dharma, handed down to successive generations through family traditions. It is enriched by great saints.

There are many religions in the world. They did not continuously produce masters that we see in our tradition. Our tradition has got the privilege of incarnations of Rama and Krishna, Vyasa, and Sankara. In Tamilnadu there are Nayanmars and Alwars who were all great seers. We should be proud of them.

All Religions Are NOT Same

In India there is a confusion that all religions lead to the same goal.

It is not true.

All the religious traditions of the world can be broadly classified into two:

1) Aggressive religious tradition and

2) Non-aggressive religious tradition.

Every aggressive religious tradition tries in its own way to establish its supremacy over other religions by claiming salvation as its birth right to the exclusion of all others.

Aggressive religions - Christianity & Islam, in order to establish their theocratic (religious) state throughout the world, have been indulging in religious conversions by denigrating other religions. They do not understand that the core person of an individual is a religious person and hurting that person is a rank violence.

Non-aggressive religious traditions are bound to lose over a period of time. History proved this.

I can talk to all and tell people that nobody has right to destroy any culture or religion. But leaders of aggressive religions are not interested in meaningful discussions.

Therefore I can only talk to my people. I can ask them to look into the theologies of other religions which are diagonally opposed to the universal fact, 'God is everywhere and His grace is available to all.' I can tell them to protect the native spiritual culture of Bharat through a well thought-out programme.

Theologies

Theology differs from religion to religion. The concept of reality of God, world and you is again thought of differently. More often, God is looked upon as a Judgemental person located in a place yonder. Reaching that place and living with him is the goal.

Neither the Vedic religion nor Buddhism will accept this as a goal.

A devout Christian cannot accept a goal other than reaching the Heaven promised by his scripture.

The goal of an informed Vaidika is freedom from a sense of limitation centered on 'I'. Can there be an ultimate goal for a human being other than this?

Concept of God

We find that the concept of God differs from person to person and from religion.

God is the most abused being.

Various theologies give us the double message. "He (God) loves you; be careful." It is something like saying, "I love you; get out of my sight."

Thus, people have different concepts of God.

Even the person who says, "I don't believe in God", is only dismissing his concept of God.

Whether you have dismissed or accepted God, His existence remains a mystery to you, for you find yourself in a given scheme of things (Universe) that consists of certain laws.

These laws are many and varied but they do form a universe. There is a given world. Nothing in fact is created.

How it functions is amazing

You can't Really Avoid the Question "What is God?"

There cannot be many versions of God. The nature of God is not open for accommodation. You cannot choose to have one plus one is equal to three. You can't say, "In my country, one plus one equals three", or "In my culture, one plus one is four." So too, there is no such option about the truth of God.

If God is a Reality, then definitely I have to discover that.

Veda Says

"Isavasyam Idam Sarvam

– All that is here is Ishvara."

The Veda is not saying that there is one Ishvara; it says there is only Ishvara.

- It is something to be understood, not believed.
- When something can be known, there is reality.
- Since all that is here is Ishvara, Hindus accept any form of worship and any language in prayer. But this acceptance did not mean that all religions say the same thing and lead to the same goal.

Vedic Definition of GOD

The transcendental universal phenomena which is expressed as Ishvara and not as a person, has adhistanam (sub – stratum). That adhistanam is called Brahman.

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Brahman has three intrinsic features

1. *Satyam - Eternal Existence*
2. *Jnanam - Knowledge*
3. *Anantam - Existence & knowledge are not limited by worldly limitations*

These are not subject to any change or modifications.

Therefore Brahman is also known as Nirguna Brahman.

"Satyam Jnanam Anantam Brahma" is the most popular, most significant and most quoted Vedic definition of God. This reveals three intrinsic features of God which lends existence for all life forms and objects of the universe. This can be understood and verified from the stand point of empirical existence of the universe.

Law of Causation

It has been scientifically proved that the law of cause and effect pervades all that exists in this universe. Ishvara is the Intelligent and Material cause of the universe. This is explained by Swami Dayananda Saraswati in "Discourses on certain important Topics" (ISBN: 9788195681235) P: 8 to 14.

Creation

When I go to the level of Quantum Physics, I understand that the physical universe, the mother earth, the life possibility and living organisms (including our physical body with the mind and sense organs) are all intelligently put together. It is called Shrishti, a Creation. Therefore the entire universe is a marvelous piece of creation.

Creation only means that it is intelligently put together. Any creation implies knowledge.

Knowledge cannot rest in an inert material. If it has to rest in a conscious being, there must be a knowledgeable person, who is to be understood by you, presumed by you whether you see the person or not.

Since we see that the Jagat-Universe is intelligently arranged (made), we cannot but appreciate that there is an intelligent being regardless of whether we think He is here, there or elsewhere.

This Sarvsya Kartha, the maker of everything, must be a Sarvajna, an all knowing conscious being.

- *This all knowing conscious being who has the skill and the power to create is Sarvakarta whom we call in Sanskrit 'Ishvara' and in English, they say 'God'.*

- *Ishvara is a conscious being who must necessarily have all knowledge and all power / skill to create, sustain and resolve the Jagat, the Universe.*

This Jagat is More a Manifestation of Ishvara Than a Creation.

Veda says all the five elements space (which includes time), air, fire, water and earth manifested from Ishvara and constitute this universe. My physical body also is not separate from these five elements.

So, this entire elemental universe including my body mind-sense-complex is a manifestation of Ishvara.

Therefore the Vedic statement 'Divi tishtan Sarvam Karoti' needs to be interpreted appropriately which should mean, 'being rooted in His own effulgence, He created everything.'

So, God Sitting in Heaven created the Universe is a wrong statement

Ishvara as Various Orders in Creation

When I say order, please understand order pervades[2] everything. The whole manifestation[3] of Ishvara as this Jagat. is in the form of order. This is where I am driving you to understand Ishvara – (God) as various infallible orders of the universe.

Dr. Albert Einstein had said,

"I do not believe in the god of theology who rewards good and punishes evil. My God created laws that take care of that. This universe is not ruled by wishful thinking but by immutable laws."

-In 1954 at a meeting with William Miller of 'Life' magazine.

(Source: en.m.wikipedia.org dated 29.11.2022)

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[2] **Pervades** : Inheres.

[3] **Manifestation**: Revealing in physical form.

Ishvara is not Sitting in Heaven

Since Ishvara inheres (pervades) the entire creation, you cannot say that Ishvara (God) is sitting in Heaven. All that is here is Ishvara. This is the Vedic vision and we can ill afford to miss that vision. Therefore all-encompassing order is only the Ishvara you can accept. It is folly to accept any other Ishvara.

Bringing Ishvara Into One's Life

Ishvara is in the form of order. That order is infallible.

The infallible is very much present in the anatomy, in the physiology, in the biology, in the psychology, in the epistemology (Cognitive), in the dharma and in everything. SO YOU ARE NEVER AWAY FROM ISHVARA EITHER IN TIME OR IN SPACE. If one understands "what is Ishvara?", perhaps one will always see a blessing around him.

Then one can relax and this is how you can bring Ishvara into your life.

Order of Dharma

(Sustains the Entire Creation)

"If everything is not only a creation but manifestation of Ishvara, Dharma is also His manifestation, not a mandate. This is the Vedic view of Dharma. That is the reason why end does not justify the means. Even for the sake of Ishvara, you cannot do anything against dharma, which is not separate from Ishvara."

Like even the law of gravitation that we all sense, the law of dharma also we all commonly experience. Dharma is in the head of everybody which is meant to control one's actions. If there is nothing to control a person and one is totally ignorant of what is right and wrong, then the creation is defective. It is something like a car coming into the market without a brake system.

We had no sermons from a mountain top. We do not require a son of God, a messiah or a Prophet to come and tell us universal values, the Dharma.

In a given situation what is proper and needs to be done is Dharma, which is not-separate from Ishvara.

I may get away from the hands of local laws, but I cannot get away from the law of dharma because it is Ishvara Himself.

If I rub against dharma, I get rubbed. Action and reaction are not only equal, they are opposite too.

Punya & Papa

When I go against dharma, I attract what is called Papa and when I go with dharma, reach out to do something which helps another person, I attract what is called Punya. The Punya and the Papa are realities for us. Therefore, the law of Karma also is Ishvara. Dharma and Karma (Punya & Papa) are both sides of one and the same coin.

Ishvara's Grace

Vishnu does not ask Lakshmi every day, to whom should the grace be given that day?

You have to earn Ishvara's grace as you tap rubber from a rubber tree.

You are a loser, born loser, when you cannot place a flower at altar because kayikam karma alone can earn the best adrishtam.

Either you earned grace in the past or earning it now.

Puja – Physical Prayer

The people who have dismissed vigraharadhana as idol worship are the people who are the losers. They do not have a physical prayer and hence they cannot relate themselves with Ishvara.

All their prayer is only oral prayers and they do not have mental prayer either. Why because for mental prayer, mind has to travel from grosser to subtler level.

If one wants to earn adrishtam one has to do puja. Nothing else can bring about the result that Puja can bring.

Forms of Worship

We do not worship many Gods, we do not worship even one God. We worship the only God in various forms and names.

We worship a Vigraha or Murthi which is a chosen form for God who is formless. ***It is a Linga (Symbol - that by which something is represented or known), which represents the all pervading God who has manifested (appeared) as the entire Jagat.***

An informed Hindu can never accept the phrase 'Idol worship'. He does not worship a stone or wood 'Idol'.

Since God inheres (pervades) the entire Jagat, all forms are essentially God's forms only. With this understanding one can worship God by invoking Him on any form.

Idol Worship

The word 'Idol' was deliberately imported and thrust on Hindus by the European founders of modern Vedic studies to describe our altar of worship of Ishvara.

Unfortunately our forefathers accepted that erroneous translation without knowing the negative background of the word Idol.

Idol or Idolatry was quite clearly believed by them to signify the misguided worship of the graven images of fictitious Gods.

In the Old Testament, idol worshippers are condemned. In the Koran, the worshippers of Idols are relegated to the category of the demons.

Yet the irony is, those who have destroyed Idols again have altars and undertake pilgrimage.

Other Theologies – Christianity & Islam

Belief in God

A belief can be defined as a Judgement before knowledge. A belief being a Judgement before knowing, it is subject to correction on verification.

Please remember there is no such thing as belief in God.

A belief in God is not acceptable to us.

The concepts of God that we hear about from various religious pulpits are only fallible.

God Presented As Good Things

God is presented as all good things and all the opposite qualities are said to belong to the devil, Satān. Thus you have vertical division right in your psyche. These concepts of God that are floating around are really damaging to a human being's psychological well-being.

In Christian and other theologies, there is not only God but also Satan, another force. God wants to do good things and Satan puts spokes in the wheel of God.

So, saying that God is Almighty becomes lip service. This concept is a ridiculous one.

Even Caral Jung, the disciple of Psychologist Sigmund Freud, had said, "If two were there like even father-mother, good-evil, God-devil one would limit the other."

The Vedic vision of God is a whole vision without such a split. Therefore we do not have this concept of good and evil. What I want you to understand is that we are looking for an infallible Ishvara and for infallible, there is no second force.

God's Grace - Should be for all

We find that every person is endowed with a body, mind and sense complex. Everyone has Buddhi and means to make his or her living. Everyone experiences pleasure and pain and is subject to aging, disease and death. There are people who are privileged and underprivileged in every religion. Nobody can deny these facts.

Then how can some people assert that God ensures his grace only for them and their followers and leave others in disgrace? Is He such a sadist? It is amazing to know how people became victims of their religious leaders and those religious leaders became victims of their respective theologies.

Did God Sitting in Heaven Create the World?

If God in heaven created the world, who created the heaven? You have to say, God. If God created heaven where was He before He created heaven?

– In hell?

The space itself is a part of this Jagat. If that is so, there is no place for God to create heaven. He has to create the space. God cannot be outside space to create it because there is no such thing as outside space.

This creates a cosmological spilt. May be space itself is not separate from God. That would change the entire perspective!

There is another theological concept which says God created the world out of nothing.

But really nothing comes out of nothing. Something cannot come from nothing.

One may talk something beyond my reason, but cannot go against my reason.

Scientific Perspective

The Bible as well as the Church were holding on to the belief that the earth is flat. When the scientists like Copernicus and Galileo have discovered the fact that the earth is spherical and the Sun is at the centre of our Universe, instead of gracefully accepting the fact, those scientists were persecuted by the Church.

If there is a certain understanding of a given law at a particular time, and that law is proved to be wrong, then the understanding of the law has to undergo a change.

Not to use Symbols of Aggressive Religions

Aggressive religions (Christianity & Islam) are opposed to the universal fact "**All that is here is Isvara - Isavasyam Idam Sarvam**". They claim that God is in heaven and spirituality is their birth right to the exclusion of all others. They have their respective forms of worship. They say other forms of worships are false.

So care should be taken not to use symbols of such religions to offer our prayers. Because using such religious symbols gives a wrong message to the uninformed Hindu as though all religions are same.

Going to Heaven NOT the Human Goal

Theologies based on beliefs/faiths say going to heaven for eternal life is the goal of an individual. Eternal is not like any other word. It means it does not subject itself to time and change. Change means timebound. That which changes is non-eternal and anything that has a beginning must necessarily have an end.

If heavenly life is something that is going to happen later after my departure, then it has a beginning and it must come to an end.

These theologies do not really help an individual to live purposeful life here on earth. Yet millions hold on to these beliefs. This is the most tragic thing in this world. To me there is no greater tragedy to a human being than this that you can have a belief that is non-verifiable and you still hold on to it, commit your whole life to it.

Carl Jung Admired Hinduism

Jung knew Hindu Religion. He admired Hinduism. He said, "Rama could cry in the forest when he lost Sita and yet Rama could be an Altar of worship. That makes the Hindu society a sane society."

He said the Hindu society legitimized sorrow, while other religions do not do that.

INDIA

India is a great country. It has something very special to offer to the humanity. India can be discovered only by understanding its spiritual culture.

We have a great culture. We have something to give to the world.

One cannot preserve a culture without knowing it, without living it. Recognize the profundity of your culture. Be grateful for being a recipient of this great tradition. Protect your tradition and hand it over to the next generation.

Bharat is a Living Organism

Bharat is a living organism. Our Vedas are sacred. Our Bhagavad Gita is sacred. Our literature is sacred. Our "Pottu" (tilak) is sacred. Our dance is sacred. Our music is sacred. **Our culture is sacred and our very Way of Life is sacred. Hindu vote is sacred**[4].

Bharata Desa Hitaya — ***for the good of this country, known as Bharat.***

Kuru Sevam Tvam — ***Do What You Can Do.***

Brief message of the anthem.

For the protection of the people living in the mountains, in the forests, the people living in all these places– from Setu to Himalayas, Rameshwaram to the Himalayas. In the entire country, people living in different remote places, they need to be protected, their culture is to be protected, their health, everything is to be protected, for their well being.

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[4] Pujya Swamiji's Message at Sri Guruji Golwalkar's Birth Centenary Celebrations, held at Chennai on 3rd February 2007.